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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: WM-5

June 17, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**JOINT DOMINGUEZ AND DEFOREST
TREATMENT WETLANDS PROJECT
AWARD OF CONSULTANT CONTRACT
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

Award and authorize the Chief Engineer of the Flood Control District, or his designee, to execute a consultant services agreement with CH2M Hill to prepare design plans, specifications, and construction cost estimates for the Dominguez Gap Wetlands and Enhanced Groundwater Recharge Project and DeForest Wetlands Restoration Project (Joint Dominguez and DeForest Treatment Wetlands Project) and establish the effective date following your Board's approval. The agreement will be for a not to exceed fee of \$1,320,000, which includes \$120,000 for unforeseen costs, to be financed through Fiscal Year 2003-04 Flood Control District Funds.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This project consists of completing design plans and specifications, and environmental documentation for developing extensive treatment wetlands, enhancing groundwater and reclaimed water supply, and establishing public use open space in the Dominguez

Gap Spreading Grounds (Dominguez Gap) and Market Street Detention Basin (DeForest) located in the City of Long Beach adjacent to the Los Angeles River. The District and the City of Long Beach completed separate feasibility studies for the Dominguez Gap and DeForest sites in 2001 and 2002, respectively. The studies concluded that the project areas could be modified to allow a continuous flow of water to create year-round aquatic habitat for native wetland and riparian woodland plant species, enhance groundwater recharge, and treat water from the Los Angeles River to a level suitable for landscape irrigation. As part of these studies, conceptual plans were developed for complementary enhancement of existing trails and access points, and construction of new public-use facilities to support recreational activities such as bird watching, nature study, hiking, cycling, horseback riding, and environmental education activities.

The studies involved a diverse stakeholder group that included jurisdictional, resource, and regulatory agencies, environmental groups, political representatives, and local residents. Community meetings were held to gather input from the public and present the findings from the studies. The stakeholders worked closely together during the development of conceptual plans for the project, which has strong support from the City of Long Beach and residents in the area. The District also has support from the California Coastal Conservancy and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for this project.

The projects have been combined for the design and environmental documentation phases. Since the projects are similar in many ways, this will provide an efficient and cost-effective approach to completing these tasks.

Once constructed, the City of Long Beach and the District will cooperate in maintaining the project. It is anticipated that the City of Long Beach will maintain the improvements at the DeForest site, and the District will continue to maintain the Dominguez Gap site and flood control components of the DeForest site. The District will return to your Board for approval of a cooperative agreement between the City of Long Beach and the District that will define the project and financial responsibilities related to design, implementation, and maintenance.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Awarding this agreement will meet the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility by allowing the District to supplement resources and manage workload in a more efficient and responsible manner. This project, once constructed, will also meet the Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence by increasing recreational opportunities

and environmental benefits and improving the quality of life for citizens of the County of Los Angeles.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-04 Flood Control District Fund.

The recommended agreement for the project is for an aggregate not to exceed fee of \$1,320,000, including \$120,000 for unforeseen work, which may arise during progress of the work. Additional work within this allowance will not be performed without prior written authorization from the Chief Engineer.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the agreement stating that the consultant shall notify its employees, and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees, about Board Policy 5.135, the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, and that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration for contract award, CH2M Hill is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence Program/General Relief Opportunity for Work participants for future employment.

CH2M Hill is in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program) and Chapter 2.203 (Contractor Employee Jury Service Program).

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A finding of environmental impact is not required for the award of these consultant services. This Board action will authorize the preparation of plans, specifications, and all documentation required by the California Environmental Quality Act for this project. The District will return to your Board for an environmental finding before the project is advertised for construction.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On January 15, 2004, a request for proposals was issued to 44 firms. Three firms responded to the request. An evaluation committee consisting of representatives from the California Coastal Conservancy, City of Long Beach, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and Public Works evaluated the proposals. The evaluation of the firms was based on technical expertise, proposed work plan, experience, personnel qualifications, and understanding of the work requirements. These evaluations were completed without regard to race, creed, color, or gender. Based on the review and evaluation of these proposals, the committee selected CH2M Hill as the best qualified firm. The negotiated fees have been reviewed by the District and are considered reasonable for the services provided.

Participation by Community Business Enterprises (CBE) in the project is encouraged through Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good faith efforts to utilize CBEs. CH2M Hill is aware of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program, and its proposed CBE participation is on file with Public Works.

Public Works has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended agreement, as this agreement is for non-Proposition A services.

As requested by your Board on February, 3, 1998, and to further increase consultant awareness of contracting opportunities with Public Works, this contract was listed on the "Doing Business with the County" website.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The project will have no adverse impact on current services. Once constructed, this project will improve water quality, conserve water, increase habitat, and provide public access to the project area, creating multiuse facilities consistent with the District's goals of watershed management. The project is in the general interest of the District and will improve the quality of life for residents of the County.

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CONCLUSION

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Department of Public Social Services (GAIN/GROW Program)